

Law Enforcement News

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Join us in cyberspace!

Law Enforcement News now has its own home page on the World Wide Web — LEN Online — as part of our continuing information outreach to the police profession. You can access the page at <http://www.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/len>.

Put on notice

Police agencies wrestle with sex-offender notification issue

In theory, at least, the idea seems simple enough. In order to better protect and serve the community, law enforcement agencies should notify residents when a convicted sex offender is about to be released from prison and move into the area.

That's the theory. The reality, however, has proven nowhere near as straightforward. As more and more states require such notifications, police officials are grappling not only with how best to provide the news to often-fearful and angry communities, but also the intricate legal ramifications of doing so.

About 45 states now have some version of what has come to be known as "Megan's Law," named after Megan Kanka, the 7-year-old New Jersey girl who was raped and murdered in 1994 by a twice-convicted sex offender who lived on her block. The state of Washington passed the first law requiring that sex offenders register with law enforcement and that the public be notified of

their whereabouts, but many states, including New Jersey, did not adopt similar laws until after the Kanka murder.

This year finds more states rushing to comply with the Federal version of Megan's Law, which was signed by President Clinton last year and requires all 50 states to have sex-offender registries in place or face the loss of some Federal crime-prevention funds. States are using the mandate as an opportunity to draft new laws or improve upon older statutes, many of which are under legal attack.

In April, Georgia Gov. Zell Miller signed a new version of that state's law, which now requires all convicted sex offenders to register their addresses with the state Bureau of Investigation, which in turn passes the information along to county sheriffs in jurisdictions where offenders plan to reside. The new law, which takes effect July 1, lets the sheriff determine how much information is released and how it is distributed.

The law replaces one that required sheriffs only to maintain a registry of parolees convicted of sex crimes against children, and which provided that the list be "open to public inspection."

According to GBI spokesman David House, public access to the registry will be limited to residents of a specific county where an offender plans to reside. Information will be maintained on offenders for 10 years, while those who are deemed sexual predators — a medical classification that states individuals are predisposed to sex offenses — will be on the registry for life.

Offenders in Georgia are now required to notify GBI or the county sheriff when they move. Authorities will enter the information into the state's Criminal Justice Information System network, which will automatically route the information into the GBI-maintained registry, House added.

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What do these cops have that makes them so special? National credentials.

Ninety-four law enforcement officers from across the country can now boast a distinction that no others in the United States have: They are the first to have their professionalism certified by the National Law Enforcement Credentialing Board.

Attorney General Janet Reno, Senator Joseph Biden of Delaware and Gilbert Gallegos, president of the National Fraternal Order of Police were among those on hand to honor the officers at a Capitol Hill luncheon in Washington during National Police Week last month, where they were hailed as "the best in law enforcement."

"We were very fortunate that we had the opportunity in May to recognize the first 94 in the country," said Columbus, Ohio, police Sgt. Rick Weisman, a 23-year police veteran who is executive director of the board, "and to have Senator Biden speak to us and have an opportunity to meet with the Attorney

General to discuss the program."

More than 300 officers have begun the credentialing process since it was established last December. Weisman told Law Enforcement News. Officers who seek credentials are required to meet standards and demonstrate skills in an assessment that is reviewed by the board, whose members include a broad array of law enforcement and civilian officials. The standards were developed over a three-year period with the input of more than 6,000 front-line officers, police supervisors, chiefs and community and business leaders.

"It's the first time that we know of where all of the stakeholders in law enforcement — every group that has an interest in ensuring top-quality law enforcement — has come together. Our board has police chiefs, sheriffs, public and elected officials, rank-and-file law enforcement officers — all coming together to try to find ways to im-

prove professionalism in law enforcement, to help law enforcement officers improve the quality of service they provide to the public," Weisman said.

The three-phase process is open only to full-time law enforcement officers with at least five years of experience and a college degree, or those who have eight years of experience and no college. They also must have taken at least 50 hours of training directly related to law enforcement, and have a propensity for instilling professionalism in others through activities such as mentoring or writing articles for professional journals.

In addition, successful applicants must perform 100 hours of community service, and have recommendations and evaluations by supervisors, peers and community members. They must also pass a computerized test that gauges their general knowledge in eight areas.

It takes about three months for can-

didates to complete the program, which tests their abilities in numerous areas, including police practice and procedures, knowledge of the law, ethics and values, investigations, officer and traffic safety, community policing and communication.

Credentials are good for four years. Those who fail to meet the standards are given input on how to make improvements and are given another chance, Weisman said.

Gallegos, a member of the board, said the program "reflects a national desire to improve professionalism in the law enforcement community by recognizing the nation's finest and inspiring the nation to honor the commitment of the most professional officers in every community. These exceptional men and women will serve as role models for the entire law enforcement community by practicing our profession's highest ethics and standards."

Picture this: Digital photos beam from Texas to Virginia via high-tech patrol cars

In a demonstration this month that was said to be the first of its kind, digital photographs were transmitted "without a hitch" between two specially equipped police cars — one parked in College Station, Texas, the other sitting in an Alexandria, Va., hotel parking lot.

The demonstration involved an Alexandria police cruiser equipped with a fully portable computer that utilizes cellular-digital technology to access other computers and crime data bases, and an Advanced Law Enforcement Response Technology cruiser used by the College Station Police Department that was developed jointly by the U.S.

Department of Transportation and the Texas Transportation Center.

Alexandria police spokesman Lieut. John Crawford said two images were transmitted from Texas to Virginia during the demonstration. "It took about 20 seconds — 30 seconds tops," he told Law Enforcement News, adding that the quality of the images was "perfect."

Spectators lauded the demonstration, saying the new technology will quickly provide critical information on breaking cases when photographs or composites are instantly broadcast locally, regionally or nationally to police cruisers on patrol.

"The potential for this technology is unlimited," said Dan Rosenblatt, executive director of the International Associations of Chiefs of Police. "We stand poised to communicate this vision and share these and other technology successes with all law enforcement agencies around the world."

"Time is of the essence when a child disappears," added Ernie Allen, president of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. "There is no doubt that technology is having a dramatic impact on the way police investigate and child advocates respond to missing child cases by allowing them

to quickly exchange images and information, and rapidly resolve more cases."

The cellular-digital packet data communications access system utilized in the June 4 demonstration was developed by Bell Atlantic NYNEX Mobile. The mobile computers were developed by UCS.

"It's important for us to promote this technology for obvious reasons," said Crawford. "I think once a lot of [agencies] get on board and get the equipment, they will then be able to receive photographs from us. The applications are almost endless."

Around the Nation

Northeast



CONNECTICUT — Cliff House, a brand new juvenile facility in Meriden, may be closed following the escape of two teen-age sexual offenders. City Councilman Anthony Tomassetti said city officials were misled by the state Department of Children and Families about the type of offenders who would be held at the facility. The two escapees kicked out an improperly installed security screen in their room. They were recaptured without incident within two hours by city police.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA — William B. Sarvis Jr., a former assistant police chief who was demoted to captain last year for allegedly buying fraudulently obtained electronic equipment, retired last month, one week after being reassigned and given a 25-day suspension in connection with the case. Sarvis and 17 others officers are accused of buying a host of consumer electronic products from an employee of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms who used stolen, government issue credit cards to buy the items.

MAINE — Forest rangers will be allowed to carry weapons under legislation approved May 20 by the state Senate. Rangers reportedly face increased threats from Christmas tree rustlers and timber thieves.

Dana Camacho last month became the first man to be charged under the state's new anti-stalking laws. Camacho, 40, allegedly violated numerous protection orders filed by his estranged wife, Debra. Camacho faces a maximum five-year prison sentence.

MARYLAND — Baltimore Police Commissioner Thomas Frazier's honorary membership in the Vanguard Justice Society, a black officers' group, was revoked last month. Frazier, who is white, temporarily suspended Col. Ronald Daniel, the force's highest ranking black officer, after he complained about racial disparities.

A team of law enforcement officials has been appointed to work out a plan by mid-July for establishing a non-emergency 311 system statewide.

Baltimore Police Officer David Shields, 29, was acquitted May 9 on charges of raping a woman on their first date. The Police Department may yet pursue administrative charges.

Carjackings statewide decreased by 6 percent in 1996, to a total of 840 reported incidents. According to state crime statistics, the majority occurred in Baltimore City and Prince George's and Baltimore counties.

Baltimore Police Lieut. Owen Eugene Sweeney Jr., 47, was fatally wounded May 7 by a shotgun blast fired from behind a closed door. Sweeney was a 29-year Baltimore police veteran.

MASSACHUSETTS — Young offenders who commit minor crimes will have the option of performing community service and entering rehabilitation instead of facing trial, under a new program in Newburyport District Court.

Robert McNickles was convicted May 13 of the 1992 murder of his uncle and the rape and murder of a 12-year-old cousin, in Suffolk County's first case to rely on DNA evidence.

NEW HAMPSHIRE — Peterborough Police Chief Quentin R. "Butch" Estey Jr. was fired May 7 by the town's Board of Selectmen following an investigation into repair of a cruiser. A statement by the board accused Estey of deceit and cover-up, but gave few details. Estey had been chief for 12 years. Sgt. Scott Guinard was named interim successor.

Veteran Manchester Police Officer Bruce Smith resigned last month, moments after learning he would be arrested on charges of luring teen-age girls to strip while he was in uniform on duty. Smith, 41, was arraigned on three counts of official oppression, three counts of false imprisonment and two counts of endangering the welfare of a child. He allegedly drove the girls, ages 16, 17 and 18, to a secluded area and made them undress to check for drugs.

NEW JERSEY — Woodbridge police Lieut. Joseph Zayak, 41, was indicted May 21 on charges of leaving his job to have a sexual tryst with a Staten Island woman accused of drunk driving. The incident occurred when Zayak, who was watch commander, offered to drive home the estranged wife of a New York City police officer, who had been arrested Jan. 18 on a DWI charge. He allegedly took two hours off from work, claiming he was sick.

Former Palisades Park Police Officer Edward W. Shirley, 38, was sentenced to two years in Federal prison May 13 for burglarizing homes while in uniform for the past four years. Shirley was also indicted by a Federal grand jury, along with another officer, for being part of a burglary team that routinely victimized residents of Palisades Park.

NEW YORK — Neal Ebrus, 33, a Drug Enforcement Administration agent, was sentenced to eight months in prison May 21 for accepting a \$25,000 bribe from a doctor suspected of diverting drugs for his own use. Ebrus told the doctor that in return he would end a Federal investigation into the physician's activities.

New York City Police Officer Anthony Sanchez, 31, on May 19 became the first officer to be killed in the line of duty this year when he was fatally shot in the neck. According to police officials, Sanchez and his partner were responding to a call about a robbery in Chelsea when they found Scott Schneiderman, a 33-year-old stockbroker, preying on his own estranged father. A fierce shootout ensued in an apartment building stairwell.

Officer Anthony Pellegrini of the New York City's 33rd Precinct was named "cop of the month" in May, just weeks after shooting a 16-year-old in the back. Responding to outraged residents, police said it was customary to give an officer involved in a shooting an award to lift his spirits.

New York City Police Officer Paolo Colecchia was convicted May 29 of manslaughter for shooting an unarmed man on a subway platform last July 4. The conviction marks just the second

time in 20 years that an officer has been found guilty of committing homicide on duty. Colecchia said an off-duty officer told him the victim, Nathaniel Levi Gaines Jr., 25, was stalking a woman. The officer frisked Gaines and found no weapon. An altercation ensued, and Gaines ran. He was six to eight feet from Colecchia when he was shot.

Four New York City police officers were reprimanded last month for inappropriate and disruptive behavior at this year's National Police Week ceremonies in Washington, D.C. Ever since a 1995 episode in which the antics of drunken police officers attending Police Week embarrassed the NYPD and received national attention, officers are reminded to obey standards of off-duty conduct and are prohibited from consuming alcohol while in uniform. The department also dispatches undercover officers to keep an eye on colleagues during the ceremonies.

Dino Lawless, a New York City police officer, was convicted May 14 of federal tax evasion. Lawless tried to avoid paying \$23,000 in back taxes dating to 1994 by claiming that New York City was outside the jurisdiction of the United States. Eleven other officers were arrested in the same scheme.

Police arrested a third man last month in the ambush of an off-duty New York City detective and a retired officer who were moonlighting as security guards. Bernard Johnson, a 23-year-old parolee, was allegedly one of the triggermen who sprayed 48 rounds from an AK-47 and a 9mm. pistol at Arthur Pettus and Joseph Bellone.

PENNSYLVANIA — Tremaine Jackson, 24, who was awaiting retrial in connection with a 1994 shootout in Philadelphia in which a man was killed and two FBI agents were wounded, pleaded guilty May 13 and agreed to testify for the prosecution. The incident began on March 16, 1994, when Jackson and Melvin Williams, 21, were stopped by FBI agents as they drove with two companions. Agents Timothy Turk and Richard Macko wanted to extort an FBI informant whose cover was about to be blown. A gunfight ensued, and Macko and Turk were hurt. Last July, Federal prosecutors revealed that the FBI had withheld information about Turk, who had been under investigation at the time of the shootout. Turk allegedly used his FBI credit card to make personal purchases, and was involved in a \$25,000 theft from an FBI evidence locker in 1990. Turk resigned under pressure in 1995.

A woman who was shot six times by a Downingtown police officer May 8 plans to file a civil-rights suit against the Police Department. Mary Jane Krasovitch Thomas, 27, was hit in the chest, both thighs, elbow, arm and buttocks after being pulled over by Officer Michael Nesef for driving erratically. According to police, Thomas tried to get past a police roadblock and tried to hit the officer with her car. Police say she was shot in self-defense. Thomas failed several field sobriety tests.

RHODE ISLAND — Max, the Warwick Police Department's K-9 officer, died in May after surgery for a kidney tumor. The German shepherd had worked on drug and missing-persons cases for seven years.

Southeast



ALABAMA — Federal agents believe they have stanchied the flow of illegal guns from Birmingham with the arrests of William O. Dollar, 49, and his sister, Connie Jean Dollar, 29. An indictment unsealed last month charges the two with falsifying Federal forms and gun sales records, and knowingly supplying guns to arms traffickers. The Dollars are suspected of illegally selling more than 2,000 guns, about half of them used in violent crimes nationwide.

ARKANSAS — West Memphis police Sgt. Stan Burch, 52, was seriously injured and two people were killed last month when his cruiser collided head-on with their car as he chased a stolen-car suspect. Police said the stolen vehicle, driven by Charles Frederick Watkins, 29, of Memphis, swerved to avoid the oncoming car driven by Craig Newland, 19, and his passenger, Laura A. Higginbotham, 21.

FLORIDA — Shae Dunbar, a Metro-Dade police officer, faces a second-degree murder charge in connection with the fatal, off-duty shooting of Diego Arguez, 22, following a brawl April 17 outside a Miami Beach nightclub.

Three people face up to 46 years in prison on a manslaughter conviction for removing a stop sign at a Tampa intersection, which led to the deaths of three teen-agers in a collision with a tractor-trailer. Nissa Bailie, 21, Thomas Miller, 20, and Christopher Cole, 20, denied uprooting that particular sign, but confessed to stealing 19 others on a February night in 1996.

The Government began its case May 19 against two attorneys accused of helping Colombian drug lords escape justice in the 1980s and early 1990s. Former U.S. Justice Department official Michael Abbell and Miami attorney William Moran claim that by representing Colombian traffickers, they were merely fulfilling their duty to provide the accused with a vigorous defense. Federal officials contend that Moran and Abbell spread around hush money and conveyed death threats to those considering cooperating with authorities against the drug traffickers.

Cargo boats going to and from Haiti are being attacked at the Hialeah riverfront by modern-day pirates who rob, beat and torture crew members in hopes of finding drugs and money. At least six such attacks have been reported since last November.

A 6-year-old Largo girl was arrested, handcuffed and detained for several hours at the Pinellas County Juvenile Assessment Center after disrupting a crime-prevention class. Police said the child yelled, threw a stuffed animal, and kicked, hit and spat at the school principal and a police officer.

GEORGIA — Former Luthersville police chief Dorsey Evans was arrested May 16 in connection with an alleged multistate bank fraud. Evans, 47, is suspected of using fake IDs to open checking accounts in Mississippi, Kentucky, South Carolina, Alabama and other

Southeastern states. Fayette County deputies reportedly found a check stamper from the Social Security Administration in Evans's home, along with birth certificates, false identification and Social Security cards.

LOUISIANA — The state House approved a bill in May that will force convicted felons to pay all or part of the cost of their imprisonment. A judge would first consider whether a prisoner's family would be unduly burdened by the requirement.

NORTH CAROLINA — More than 300 market-ready hogs, worth an estimated \$50,000, have been stolen from Salemburg-area farms by an old-fashioned gang of livestock thieves.

Rewards to Mecklenburg County crime tipsters are draining a Crime Stoppers' fund, which officials said could run dry within a year.

A \$45,000 grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Program will be used to buy special video cameras and equipment for Raleigh police cars for use in alcohol-related traffic enforcement. The cameras will be mounted inside the cars, in a locked, bulletproof, fireproof compartment. They can be activated when an officer turns on his siren or emergency lights.

SOUTH CAROLINA — The House last month approved legislation creating chain-gang details for nonviolent offenders. The bill also bans cable television in prison, and approves a study to see whether military-type meals for inmates would be cost-effective.

Attorney General Charlie Condon filed suit on May 20 against the state Mental Health Department to stop a release program that allows violent criminals found innocent by reason of insanity to make unsupervised trips to jobs and other places.

TENNESSEE — The Chattanooga County Commission is considering a plan to charge Hamilton County Jail inmates \$6 for doctor and dental visits, and \$3 for prescriptions.

VIRGINIA — Former FBI agent Eugene Bennett, 42, was sentenced to 23 years in prison May 15 for trying to kill his estranged wife.

Midwest



ILLINOIS — A new study found that 30 percent of Chicago's junior high school students had tried an illegal drug at least once in 1995, up from 22 percent three years earlier.

A 13-year-old Chicago boy who was convicted last year for dropping a 5-year-old boy from a 14th-floor apartment window is now accused of leading a gang rape on a 13-year-old fellow inmate at the Illinois Youth Center in Warrenville. DuPage County prosecutors are expected to file a petition seeking to transfer Antoine, as he is known, from a juvenile to an adult court. Antoine's lawyers denounced his assignment to a youth prison, claiming he needs to be in a residential treatment center. Currently, Antoine is being held

Around the Nation

at the maximum-security youth center in Joliet.

Larry Hoover, 46, chief of the Gangster Disciples street gang, was convicted May 9 on Federal conspiracy charges after he was secretly taped directing all drug dealers in the gang to turn over one day's profits each week to him, and ordering a political action committee, 21st Century V.O.T.E., to register voters. The committee backed two candidates with strong ties to the Gangster Disciples in 1995. Hoover, who is already serving a 150-to-200-year sentence for murder, could be given a mandatory life sentence.

INDIANA — The state Court of Appeals ruled unanimously May 13 that incarcerating juveniles with adult violates the state's Constitution. The decision is a victory for 16-year-old Donna Ratliff, who at age 14 killed her mother and sister when she burned down her house. Ratliff had been sexually and physically abused for years. Ratliff's lawyer said the girl had been threatened by the older prisoners she was incarcerated with.

Parents caught driving drunk with their children in the car will be charged with felony neglect of a dependent, said St. Joseph County Prosecutor Michael P. Barnes.

MICHIGAN — The Senate approved a bill May 22 that would strip low-income residents convicted of drug crimes of all or part of their food stamps for up to year.

Four hundred bank robberies are projected for the state this year, a 15-percent increase over 1996, say Federal officials. Half of the robberies are committed in Detroit, which is on pace for a one-year record.

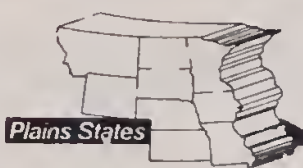
Counterfeit \$10 bills have been traced by Bay City authorities to a 15-year-old boy who admitted to printing them on his home computer.

A toy gun exchange is being organized by a group of Muskegon churches. Children can swap the guns for a bag of sports cards, books and other items.

OHIO — After years of prompting by Hamilton County Sheriff Simon Leis Jr., the county is finally considering charging jail inmates \$60 a day for their incarceration. A report is being prepared for submission to the county's community corrections board.

WEST VIRGINIA — Officials from the State Police, the Putnam County prosecutor's office, the Midwest Drug and Violent Crime Task Force, state Division of Natural Resources, county emergency services and police forces from Hurricane, Eleanor, Nitro and Poca have formed the new Putnam County Law Enforcement Board. The group will try to coordinate and improve law enforcement, in addition to conducting training programs.

WISCONSIN — A judge last month dismissed a lawsuit challenging the construction of a 500-cell, super-maximum security prison near Boscobel. The prison is intended for inmates who pose a threat to guards and convicts at other facilities in the state's overcrowded correctional system.



Plains States

IOWA — Des Moines police last month arrested four would-be tire thieves who lost their getaway car when the proprietor of an auto salvage company spotted them and forklifted their vehicle away. The men were nabbed when they inquired at a neighboring business if anyone had seen their car.

Gov. Terry Branstad signed legislation May 27 that will require motorists who have lost their licenses for drunken driving to pay an additional \$200 to get them back. The fee will generate \$3.3 million a year, which will be devoted to fighting juvenile crime.

MINNESOTA — In hopes of reducing violence this summer, law enforcement agencies and private companies in the Twin Cities will join together to provide jobs and training, housing, educational programs and youth mentors.

NEBRASKA — Newly re-elected Omaha Mayor Hal Daub last month unveiled a four-year public safety plan that includes more police officers, a new computer system for the police department and laptops in cruisers, the purchase of an 800-megahertz radio system for improved communication between law enforcement agencies, and new police precinct stations.

Two Omaha grocery stores are considering legal action against the National Socialist White People's Party, a white supremacist group that left racist literature on store shelves.

Several Omaha police officers were injured in May when tenants at a public housing development punched them and threw debris as they responded to a disturbance. The officers were treated at a local hospital and released.

NORTH DAKOTA — An assistant U.S. attorney already on administrative leave after admitting he stole from a sporting goods store was re-arrested last month on a second shoplifting charge. Dennis Fisher, 52, allegedly stole two pairs of shorts.

WYOMING — The state Corrections Department is investigating allegations that a penitentiary guard passed a printed racist joke around the prison's visiting room. The sheet distributed was titled "Hooked on Ebonics."



Southwest

ARIZONA — German shepherds outfitted with cameras and microphones will patrol the fences surrounding two of the larger tent cities at the Maricopa County Jail complex.

COLORADO — Denver officials will be giving traffic surveillance cameras a trial run in the next year or so before committing the funds needed to lease or purchase the equipment. The cam-

eras will snap pictures of speeding drivers at six intersections and generate tickets. A single photo radar gun can cost \$80,000, but the cameras can also spew out two citations a second, leading officials to say the units will pay for themselves in court revenues.

As the result of an investigation and sting operation by the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office, six men were arrested between March 31 and May 12 on suspicion of criminal attempted sexual assault on a child. The men were captured after planning to meet a "child" they chatted with on the Internet. The would-be victim turned out to be Mike Harris, a DA's investigator.

NEW MEXICO — A site is being sought for the state's first high-security juvenile facility. The \$5-million structure would house up to 150 of the most violent offenders.

Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez last month unveiled a \$150-million public safety strategy for the coming year, which will include filling all 928 sworn police positions; opening a police mini-substation in each of the nine City Council districts, and continuing crackdowns on drunken drivers, speeders and curfew violators.

TEXAS — Under an amendment approved by the House May 14, Texans with mental illness would be eligible for a concealed weapons permit, provided they have a doctor's approval. In a related development, the Senate on May 22 approved legislation that would allow non-Texans to carry their licensed concealed weapons within the state, and would allow non-residents to obtain permits without taking the state's firearms safety course.

Fort Worth city officials are calling for an investigation into allegations that Chief Thomas Windham tried to get his daughter's fiancé into the police academy, then launched a vindictive witchhunt against those who opposed him. Jimmy Wayne Johnson, 24, has repeatedly been considered for a sworn position despite a history that includes a 1992 shoplifting conviction, a string of menial jobs, and his own admission in police interviews to petty thefts and more than 20 drunken-driving incidents. Johnson is engaged to Windham's 32-year-old daughter.

Gov. George W. Bush is expected to sign a bill that would make voluntary surgical castration an option for convicted child molesters.

The parents of an autistic 15-year-old Plano boy shot and killed by a local police officer two years ago filed a wrongful death suit May 13, just six days before the statute of limitations would have run out. According to police reports, the victim, Michael Clements, lunged at Officer Michael Nunns with a serrated butter knife. Nunns was responding to a disturbance at the Collin County Mental Health and Mental Retardation facility, where the teen-ager was staying while his parents were out of town. The suit contends that Nunns failed to get crucial information about Michael's condition before shooting him. The MHMR employee who was caring for the boy, it says, did not properly describe the nature of the facility and Michael before calling police.



Far West

CALIFORNIA — A 32-year-old former San Diego County deputy, Jeffrey Loving, went on trial May 15 for the alleged sexual assault of a 19-year-old Santee woman in the back of his patrol car last July. Loving, a 10-year veteran who resigned shortly after the incident, admits to having sexual contact with the girl, but contends it was consensual. The incident occurred when Loving and another deputy came upon the woman and her boyfriend parked in a remote area. After the deputies found drugs in the vehicle, the boyfriend was arrested. The woman claims Loving subtly threatened her with arrest to coerce her into going along with his sexual advances. Loving faces four felony sex charges and a 27-year prison sentence if convicted.

A state appeals court ruled May 20 that a youth convicted of a crime can decide between being sent to juvenile hall or naming other participants in the offense. The order is a legitimate condition of probation, the court held.

A pit bull was shot and killed May 16 by a mounted San Francisco police officer after the dog viciously attacked two police horses patrolling Golden Gate Park.

Republican Gov. Pete Wilson and Assembly Speaker Cruz Bustamante, a Democrat, have suggested that the state consider executing teen-agers as young as 13 if they are judged to be "hardened criminals" beyond redemption. Opponents called the idea "nutty."

Five alleged members of a militia hate group, including a reserve Irwindale police officer, were arrested May 9 by police who also seized more than 100 guns and other military hardware. The reserve officer, Glenn Yee, 43, was alleged to be the leader of a group that police said was planning acts of domestic terrorism.

Inner-city children who witness constant violent acts are 26 percent more likely to have asthma, researchers announced at the recent annual meeting of the American Lung Association in San Francisco. The disease, which is common among poor children, was long thought to be a result of dirty air, but Dr. Rosalind Wright, a lung and public health specialist at the Harvard Medical School, found 52 percent more asthmatic wheezing among children between the ages of 2 and 10 who had been stressed by violence.

A computer hacker who had lifted credit information from some 100,000 cards on the Internet was arrested in May after technicians discovered evidence of his tampering. Carlos Felipe Salgado was arrested when he tried to sell the information for \$260,000 to an undercover agent. The scheme was discovered when an Internet provider, which has remained unidentified, found an intruder had placed a "packet sniffer" in their server. The program finds specified blocks of information, such as credit card numbers.

A domestic violence suspect shot a Butte County Sheriff's deputy to death in May, even though the officer was wearing a bulletproof vest. Deputy Randal Jennings, 38, who was named "peace officer of the year" last year by the Oroville Rotary Club, was hit twice in the neck and once in the wrist. Also dead was the suspect, 34-year-old Pon Niong, who had been sought for questioning after police received a 911 call that he was beating his wife.

In a case reminiscent of the Menendez brothers' trial, Dana Ewell, 26, and a college friend, Joel Radoverich, are due to go on trial this summer in the 1992 murder of Ewell's parents and sister. Two dogged Fresno County sheriff's detectives, John Phillip Souza and Ernie Burke, had suspected Ewell from the beginning, despite his alibi. Ewell was 200 miles away having dinner with his girlfriend and her father, an FBI agent, when Glee, Dale, and Tiffany Ewell were shot with an assault rifle at their Fresno home. Authorities say Ewell, Radoverich and two other men who had helped were going to split Ewell's \$8-million inheritance and live off the money in Europe. The case turned around when Souza and Burke, who had been mocked for years by the rich, highly intelligent suspects, came upon Jack Ponce. Fearing he would be made an accessory, Ponce incriminated Radoverich as the shooter and led the detectives to the modified barrel of the assault rifle that he had cut off and buried a few miles from where he and Radoverich went to high school.

HAWAII — A Federal judge ruled May 14 that guards at the Prince Kuhla Federal Building in Honolulu can only search visitors for weapons and explosives. He threw out a charge against a woman found with illegal drugs.

NEVADA — A rookie Las Vegas police officer, Ron Mortensen, 31, was convicted of murder May 14 in the drive-by shooting of a 21-year-old man during a night of heavy drinking to celebrate his birthday. Mortensen and another off-duty officer, Christopher Brady, were out "harass[ing] dopers and bangers" when Mortensen fired several shots at a group of people and fatally hit Daniel Mendoza. Mortensen faces a possible life sentence.

OREGON — Boy Scout Explorers were sent into Gresham liquor stores, bars and adult entertainment establishments last month for an undercover sting operation that netted nine arrests for selling alcohol to minors.

WASHINGTON — As expected, Gov. Gary Locke last month signed a measure that will allow authorities to automatically try and imprison 16- and 17-year-olds in the adult justice system for such violent crimes as drive-by shootings, armed robbery and first-degree child rape.

Anthony Loren Lowe, 45, was found guilty May 13 for the 1973 murder of Gerri Weynands during a robbery in central Seattle. Weynands was shot in the back of the head and his pockets were turned inside out. The case went cold until police were able to trace a bloody fingerprint in Weynands' car — the murder scene — to Lowe through the Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

Upwardly mobile

Lee P. Brown has held many prestigious positions in nearly four decades in law enforcement, including "drug czar" in the Clinton Administration and as police chief or commissioner in Atlanta, New York and Houston, where, most recently, he has been a professor of criminology at Rice University.

Now the 59-year-old Brown is eyeing another high-profile job as the next mayor of Houston, his adopted hometown. Brown announced his candidacy, rumored to have been in the planning for several months, on June 1 with an appearance in San Houston Park.

"I care about this city," Brown told Law Enforcement News, when asked why he's running. "This is the place I call home. I've raised children here, and now I have grandchildren here. It's been good to me and my family, and I want



Lee P. Brown
Hearing a higher calling

to do something to lead this city into the next century. I want to give back in terms of providing that leadership."

If elected, Brown would become the city's first black mayor.

Brown's platform will integrate his ideas about neighborhood-oriented policing, which he implemented during his 1982-90 tenure as Houston police chief. "I want to continue doing that, but I'm going beyond the issue of policing now. I want to take it to what I consider to be the next logical step, and that's neighborhood-oriented government."

In Brown's vision, "government will be responsive to the various neighborhoods of our city. And that means I'll deal with all critical issues like public safety, education, economic development and cultural diversity under the umbrella of neighborhood-oriented government, modifying the philosophy of neighborhood-oriented policing to running city government."

While some crimes have declined in Houston, as they have in many large U.S. cities in the past few years, overall crime is still at unacceptable levels, Brown said. "Public safety is still the major problem. We still have too much crime, too much senseless youth violence, too many gangs and too much drug use, and that will be a major issue in my administration."

Brown joins a growing list of former law enforcement officials who have turned their sights to the political arena in recent years, including Frank Jor-

dan, the former San Francisco police chief who was elected mayor in the early 1990s, and Clarence Harmon, the former St. Louis police chief who is now that city's Mayor. Brown said he plans to contact them for advice and support.

The non-partisan race will be decided Nov. 4 by voters who will choose from a roster of candidates that also includes Rah Mosbacher, a businessman and the son of a U.S. former Commerce Secretary during the Bush Administration, former city controller George Granias, and City Council members Helen Huey and Gracie Saenz. The winner will succeed incumbent Mayor Bob Lanier, who is barred by law from seeking a fourth two-year term.

Dumb-da-dum-dum

In a time when intelligent, highly educated police recruits are in greater demand than ever, it might seem hard to believe that an applicant could be rejected for scoring too high on an IQ test, but that's just what a prospective officer in New London, Conn., claims happened to him.

In a complaint filed late last month in U.S. District Court in New Haven, Robert Jordan, 46, claims the City of New London violated his constitutional rights by discriminating against him based on his intelligence.

Jordan claims Assistant City Manager Keith Harrington, who oversees the hiring of New London employees, told him, "We don't like to hire people that have too high an IQ to be cops in this city." Jordan's lawsuit calls his rejection "irrational, arbitrary and capricious," The Associated Press reported.

Jordan is seeking an injunction against the city that would end the alleged discrimination and is asking for unspecified compensatory and punitive damages.

According to The AP, city officials reportedly have said in the past that candidates who score too high on intelligence tests would become easily bored with police work and would bolt from the agency shortly after being hired, sticking the city with the \$25,000-per-officer training costs.

Jordan scored on a 33 on the intelligence exam, described as a short-form IQ test that measures a person's ability to learn and solve problems. Under a policy said to have been in effect for at least five years, candidates who score above or below the 20-27 range generally are not interviewed for positions. The average national score for police officers is 21-22. The AP said, the same as for bank tellers, salespeople and office workers.

LEN was unable to reach Jordan for comment, nor are city officials talking. But Lou Mayo, executive director of the American Police Association, a group that advocates higher education for police officers, said the group doesn't buy the reason for Jordan's apparent rejection.

The city's position "conflicts with almost all leading authorities who have expressed opinions concerning the necessary requirements to be a good police officer," said Mayo. "I would go back even to August Vollmer, the father of modern policing in the United States, who, in his 1936 book, said that

Giving is its own reward

Community-spirited cop hailed by American Legion

A police officer in Huntingdon Borough, Pa., who was chosen last month as the American Legion's first National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year because of his outstanding record of community service says he's volunteered for a variety of local organizations to "give something back" to his hometown.

Cpl. William T. Rhodes, a 22-year veteran of the borough's 10-officer department, is active in three professional organizations and 12 civic groups, serving in leadership positions in five of them, including local chapters of the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society. A native of Huntingdon, a town of 7,000 residents in the south central part of the state, the 47-year-old Rhodes also volunteers for its fire and ambulance agencies.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Rhodes is a member of the American Legion, which has recognized his contributions at the local, state and regional level several times, making him a logical choice for its first national law enforcement award.

Rhodes also works extensively with local youths as a board member of the Huntingdon Community Center, which provides sports and other activities for kids.

"That's really my pet project right now — working with the kids in this community," he told Law Enforcement News. "The nice thing about that is if you build programs and give the kids something to do, then you don't have to deal with them out there on the street. When I do deal with them on the streets, it's generally a friendly 'hello' and 'how are you,' rather than the typical stuff that kids get into if they're not doing



Cpl. William T. Rhodes
Legion of honors

anything constructive."

Rhodes credits Police Chief Daniel Varner, who also serves as borough manager, with getting him involved in volunteerism. "When I first joined the force, [he] was a patrolman at the time, involved with the American Red Cross. One evening he asked me to attend a board meeting with him, so I tagged along with him, and ended up joining the board, and becoming chairman for three years. Then when he would get involved in another venture, he'd generally pull me along with him," he told LEN.

Rhodes, who supervises the night shift, also credits his wife, Helen, for his continued involvement in the community. "She summed it up pretty good one time when she said, 'If you don't do it, it's not going to get done.' She's been very encouraging and supportive of my endeavors through the years."

With such an exemplary career behind the badge, Rhodes is aware he could have his pick of law enforcement jobs, but he said he was content

to serve his hometown. "I'm just trying to give back a little bit what it's given me over the years," he said.

In a nomination letter to the American Legion, Varner wrote: "Although William Rhodes had distinguished himself as a police officer, his greatest contribution to this community has been his dedication to community service. [His] impact on the quality of life in the community is immeasurable."

Rhodes will receive the award Sept. 3 at the group's 79th National Convention in Orlando, Fla., along with four runners-up who were chosen as the top officers in their regions. They include: Idaho State Police Cpl. Ismael Gonzales Jr.; Washington County, Wis., Deputy Michael F. Riebe; Maple Heights, Ohio, Patrolman Timothy J. Love, and Apex, N.C., Police Officer Ann Marie Moore.

Michael Duggan, assistant director for national security for the veterans' organization, said the award was set up to show the Legion's "high respect and regard for law enforcement officers," who do not have to be veterans to be nominated for the honor. "We're looking for those who have exceeded their duty requirements above and beyond his or her position, and who have demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service, state and nation," he said.

[For more information about the National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award, contact Michael Duggan of the American Legion at 202-861-2730 or write to The American Legion, Public Relations Office, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055; tel.: 317-630-1253. The deadline for nominations for next year's award is Feb. 1, 1998.]

to be a police officer, one needed to have the wisdom of Solomon, among other attributes."

"The bottom line is that according to all leading authorities, the job of police officer requires the very highest intellectual talents to competitively perform," he added.

Top secret

Meeting the threat that terrorism poses to domestic security, including the safety of government leaders and visiting dignitaries, will be the chief task of the U.S. Secret Service as the nation enters the 21st century, said the agency's new director, Lewis C. Merletti.

Merletti, a 22-year veteran of the agency who most recently served as assistant director of the Office of Training, was sworn in by Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin on June 6.

"For me, this appointment repre-

sents more than the culmination of a career committed to enforcing Federal law," he said in a statement to Law Enforcement News. "It is also an invaluable opportunity that I have been presented with to lead one of our nation's finest law enforcement organizations into the 21st century."

Merletti called providing an effective security shield against terrorism a matter "of paramount importance."

"The period in which we are living is a very challenging time for our agency," he noted. "Never before have we as a nation been more exposed to the threat of terrorism at home."

The threat extends to the nation's financial well-being as well as the lives of its leaders, he added. The agency, which is charged with protecting U.S. currency from counterfeiting as well as ensuring the safety of the President and other top officials, will use "advanced intelligence-gathering, implementation of technical and protective security measures, and utilization of investigative techniques" to achieve both missions, Merletti said.

Merletti began his Secret Service

career as a special agent assigned to the Philadelphia field office, then was appointed special agent in charge of the Baltimore field office. He was later named to head the Presidential Protective Division, where he was primarily responsible for planning and implementing security for the President and First Family.

Merletti was in charge of overseeing President Clinton's trip to Egypt for a "Summit of the Peacemakers," his subsequent visit to Israel and his trip to Bosnia last year. In 1990, he provided security for then-President George Bush during his trip to the Persian Gulf to visit U.S. troops there.

In 1993, Merletti also led the Treasury Department team investigating the shoot-out between the Branch Davidian sect and agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearm in a botched raid on the group's Waco, Texas, compound. The incident left four ATF agents and several sect members dead, and led to a 51-day standoff. The highly critical Treasury report on the initial raid, which left four agents dead, led to a shakeup of the ATF.

Deputies get chaplain aid

Sheriff's deputies in Orangeburg County, S.C., are getting a little help from a higher power — and it's not the state police or the FBI.

Rather, it's a group of volunteer chaplains who accompany them on patrols, offering solace and counseling not only to the officers but to victims as well.

Now in its second year, the ride-along program has become a valuable resource for deputies suffering from job-related stress, family problems or other strains that could adversely affect their duties.

"Our primary function is to build relationships with the officers and their families, and to serve them anyway we can," said Butch Farnum, pastor of the interdenominational Bethel Church in Orangeburg, about 40 miles south of Columbia. "Our second objective is to help victims of natural disasters and crime and accident victims."

The program was born out of a tragedy — the shooting death three years ago of Sgt. Tommy Harrison of the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety. Officials brought in a chaplain from outside the community to help deal with the grief and anger that followed Harrison's murder.

"Out of that, the question of why can't we have our own chaplains was raised," Farnum told Law Enforcement News. "I was in the right place at the right time, and got permission to get it going."

Since then, the chaplains have been called to minister in a variety of incidents, including one accident in which a 4-year-old fell from a tractor being driven by his father and was run over. The child survived, but the incident shook up many of the public safety workers at the scene, Farnum recalled. "We were there with the deputy, not only to provide emotional and spiritual support to the parents, but also to the emergency workers at the scene," he said.

The clergy also counsel traumatized crime victims. "We check in on them, and make sure their doing all right. We

also refer them for professional help if they need that," Farnum said.

Although not part of their official duties, Farnum said suspects sometimes request their services. "We normally do not go back into the detention center; we have pastors who work there on a regular basis. But occasionally, we will

refer them for professional help if they need that," Farnum said.

Chaplains undergo specialized training in making death notifications, dealing with domestic violence and grief counseling, Farnum added.

The program is entirely volunteer, and each participant must cover expenses for uniforms and other equip-

Collars aren't just for criminals — just ask these volunteer ride-along counselors.

ment. "Each individual involved pays his own way," said Farnum. "We've had a little help from local industry, but the majority of funds have come from the volunteers themselves."

Currently, the program is trying to get donations of body armor that participants can wear on patrols. "That's our next hurdle," Farnum said. "It would be great if we had body armor for our chaplains."

The program has received numerous words of thanks and support from those it's helped, Farnum noted. "Our reception has been outstanding, and the command staff has been very supportive," he said.

Law enforcement agencies nationwide are seeing the value of having chaplains available to their employees, Farnum noted. "We're happy about that, and we would be more than happy to help anybody get similar programs established."

Deputy Michael Morgan, a member of the Sheriff's Department for 2½ years, said the chaplains provide invaluable services to the agency. "When we go on certain calls, their presence will keep people from getting out of hand.... You can talk to them about any and everything with them, and they keep it confidential. Sometimes, we just need somebody to listen to us."

[Agencies or individuals wishing to donate body armor to the chaplains, or who want learn more about the program should write to: Butch Farnum, P.O. Box 343, Orangeburg, SC 29116-0303.]

Md court gives passengers a free ride, curbing police traffic-stop detentions

Maryland police officers may not detain passengers during routine traffic stops, the state's highest court ruled last month, in a decision that the state Attorney General and other officials denounced as putting officers in more danger every time they stop a car.

The Maryland Court of Appeals held May 19 that police officers may detain a passenger only if they have reasonable cause to believe that the passenger has committed a crime.

The decision runs counter to a ruling three months earlier by the U.S. Supreme Court, which held that police may order passengers out of cars during traffic stops. In its Feb. 19 decision, the Justices had ruled that police could order everyone out of a vehicle they've pulled over, whether or not any of them has done anything illegal, because of the potential threat to officer safety.

In one recent year, the Court's ruling noted, 5,762 officers were assaulted and 11 were killed during traffic stops.

But in its 6-1 decision, the Maryland court ruled that Somerset County police had no right to detain Bruce L.

Dennis after stopping the car in which he was riding for running a red light and speeding off in Princess Anne in 1993.

Dennis, who left the car, started walking away and refused orders from police to stop, was convicted of disorderly conduct and battery. The court reversed the convictions, saying that Officer Wayne Foskey had no reason to tackle and arrest Dennis.

"Without some explanation, we were unable to determine why it was safer for the officer to detain Dennis rather than allow him to walk away from the scene," Chief Judge Robert M. Bell wrote for the majority. Judge Irma Raker dissented, saying the court should reconsider the case.

Attorney General J. Joseph Curran Jr., who characterized the ruling as "very wrong," said he is considering asking the Supreme Court to examine the Maryland court's decision. He said officers must have the authority to keep passengers in their cars during the estimated 1 million traffic stops that occur in Maryland each year.

Police officials said the decision would put officers in danger by allowing passengers to roam freely while officers question drivers stopped at night or on isolated highways. "I don't know what the Court of Appeals is thinking in these cases when it comes to officer safety, but obviously it's not a primary concern," Officer Gary McIlhenny, the president of the Baltimore City Fraternal Order of Police told The Baltimore Sun.

In a related development, the U.S. Supreme Court turned down the state's appeal in a drug case said to widen protections against illegal searches of travelers' luggage.

Without comment, the High Court denied the state's request to revive a heroin and cocaine prosecution against LaBaron Stanberry, a New Jersey resident whose conviction on drug charges was voided last fall by the Maryland Court of Appeals, which ruled that someone's property, such as luggage, is not subject to police searches just because the owner fails to claim it.

The court said that an individual's

Who says there's no free lunch?

Court rejects suit over pay for meals

Chicago police officers who sought on-duty pay for their daily meal breaks won't be seeing any lunch money forthcoming soon, following the U.S. Supreme Court's rejection last month of an eight-year-old lawsuit that nearly half of the city's 12,000 police officers eventually joined as plaintiffs.

On May 19, the High Court turned down the plaintiffs' claim that they should get a new chance to show they deserve to be paid because they often miss lunch and are on call for duty during the 30-minute meal breaks scheduled into their 8½-hour shifts. Officers claimed their labor contract called for them to be paid overtime whenever they work more than eight hours a day.

The "lunch suit," as it's been dubbed by some who've watched the legal saga slog through the courts since it was first brought in 1989, contended that meal breaks should be counted as working time because officers must be in uniform in their assigned districts, in radio contact with police dispatchers, and ready to return to work immediately if necessary.

In some cases, the plaintiffs claimed, they miss meal times all together because they are busy responding to calls for service. They contended they should be paid for meal breaks under provisions of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

The city prevailed when the suit initially was heard in U.S. District Court, but the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the Federal judge to determine if officers' mealtimes were spent mostly on official duties. The district judge again dismissed the case, an action upheld by the appellate court, which said the officers' union contract provision governing overtime pay protected their rights under Federal law. Paying officers for all lunch break would compensate many who are "doing nothing more than eating," the court held.

In the latest appeal, lawyers for the plaintiffs said the union contract did not

take away officers' rights to sue under the Fair Labor Standards Act. The lower courts did not properly decide whether the city was violating the law, they claimed. The city's lawyers countered that the officers should only be paid when mealtimes are actually cut short by work.

William Nolan, president of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 7, which represents Chicago police officers, said the union chose not to get was not involved in the lawsuit, which he called a "bandwagon" that officers jumped on following the success of a similar lawsuit filed by Minnesota state troopers in the late 1980s. "We didn't get involved in it because our lawyers more or less told us it was a dead duck," Nolan told Law Enforcement News.

Officers and other Police Department employees interviewed by The Chicago Tribune had mixed reactions to the latest, and perhaps final setback in the case.

"It's disappointing," said one officer assigned to the North Side. "At most businesses, you punch out for lunch. But if you are in uniform eating and someone comes up to you and says, 'My husband just beat me up, and what are you going to do about it?' if you don't help, then out comes a complaint that the police officer doesn't care."

"I don't know many who miss lunch often," said one employee at Police Headquarters. "Take a look around," he added, gesturing to apparently well-fed colleagues working nearby.

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UCR continues spiral with record drop

Serious crime reported to U.S. law enforcement agencies fell by 3 percent in 1996 — a decrease spurred by a 7-percent drop in violent crime and a 3-percent decline in property crimes, the FBI reported June 1.

The decrease in overall crime in 1996 was the largest single-year drop since 1982, and it marks the fifth consecutive year that reported crime has fallen in the United States. The drop in violent crime is the largest one-year plunge since the FBI began reporting year-to-year comparisons in 1961.

Preliminary 1996 figures compiled by the bureau's Uniform Crime Reporting Program showed that the biggest decline of all violent crime categories occurred in homicide, which fell 11 percent, followed by robbery, with an 8-percent decline; aggravated assault, 6 percent, and forcible rape, 3 percent. Final figures will be released by the bureau in the fall.

All property-crime categories showed decreases, except for arson, which remained unchanged. The FBI said burglary and motor-vehicle theft each showed a 5-percent decline, while larceny-theft dropped 2 percent.

All areas of the nation except the South reported decreases in serious crime, which fell 8 percent in the West, 7 percent in the Northeast, and 2 percent in the Midwest. Crime in the South rose 2 percent over 1996 totals.

However, each region reported declines in violent crime, which fell 9 percent in both the Northeast and the West, 8 percent in the Midwest, and 2 percent in the South. Property-crime totals fell 8 percent in the West, 7 percent in the Northeast, and 1 percent in the Midwest, while edging up in the South by 2 percent.

Cities in all population groups reported declines in serious crime, the FBI reported. The largest decrease — 6 percent — occurred in cities with populations over 1 million, followed by a 5-percent decrease in cities with populations between 50,000 and 99,999. Rural counties reported a 3-percent drop during 1996, and suburban counties showed a 2-percent decline.

Crime has fallen since 1992, when the Crime Index total decreased by 3 percent, including declines in violent crime and property crime of 1 percent and 4 percent, respectively. In 1993, the total fell by 2 percent. The following year, total crime fell by 1 percent. In 1995, the FBI reported a 1-percent decline in the Crime Index.

Criminologists greeted the report with wary optimism, particularly the news about falling homicide rates. Alfred Blumstein, a criminologist at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, told The New York Times that the falling homicide total represents a per-capita rate of 7.3 per 100,000 population. "That would be a stunningly low number," he said.

The murder rate would also be the lowest since 1969, and would bring the United States well below the 8 to 10 homicide victims per 100,000 population that has been the national average since about 1970, Blumstein added.

Eight U.S. cities — Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, New York and St. Louis — accounted for a quarter of the decline in murder rates. But other large cities, including Atlanta, Miami and Washington, D.C., reported rising murder figures.

Experts were divided about factors that led to the crime declines, with

credit being given to community and problem-solving policing, stepped-up police enforcement of quality-of-life crimes, efforts to reach out to youths at risk for crime, tougher gun controls, and higher numbers of criminals being put behind bars, among other reasons.

James Q. Wilson, a professor of management at the University of California at Los Angeles and co-developer of the "broken windows" theory that stresses problem-solving and quality-of-life initiatives by police to reduce crime, said community-oriented policing, which evolved from his research, was not the sole factor for the decline.

"Crime is down in cities with lots of cops being more aggressive, but there are other cities that are down where community policing is barely getting off the ground," he told The Times.

As an example, he cited Los Angeles, where police have been "doing less and making fewer arrests because they don't want to get in trouble, so they are staying in their cars," presumably because of continuing fallout from the 1991 Rodney King beating incident.

"I've asked several L.A. police officers why the murder rate is down in L.A., and they tell me, 'We haven't the faintest idea,'" Wilson said.

The best explanation, Wilson suggested, might be that a change has occurred in attitudes among youths who have witnessed repercussions of the criminal lifestyle. "An awful lot of people who are likely to kill are now either dead themselves, or in prison or have decided to cool it for a while," he said.

Others said that the turmoil caused by the introduction of crack cocaine in the mid-1980s, which resulted in a highly unstable drug trade that led to a

wave of violence, has played out. "The east side gang is not fighting the west side gang anymore," said Arnold Trebach, president of the Drug Policy Foundation in Washington, D.C. "The turfs are established. There is less need for violence."

"Crime is down, but not out," added James Alan Fox, dean of the College of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University in Boston, who predicts a coming crime wave prompted by yearly increases of 1 percent in the teen-age population over the next decade. Homicide rates among juveniles remain more than twice as high as they were in 1985, he noted. "Whether those kids turn to violence depends on us."

Still, police efforts deserve partial credit for the plunge, Fox added. "Police have taken a much more preventive stance. They're identifying problems before they explode into murder."

James Fyfe, a professor of criminal justice at Temple University and former New York City police lieutenant, noted that the nation's murder rate remains unacceptably high compared with other industrialized nations.

"The murder rate is still higher than any democracy to which we compare ourselves," he told USA Today.

Other experts and law enforcement officials theorized about why the South appears to lag behind the rest of nation in enjoying the apparently unprecedented declines in crime. Among the factors they cited: a huge growth in the region's population; easier accessibility to firearms; a regional culture that stresses force to settle disputes, and the spread of drugs and gangs to areas previously spared that scourge.

"There are guns owned by more people, and an apparent willingness to resolve dispute through force," said Fox, who noted that while about a third of the U.S. population lives in the South, the region has about 42 percent of the nation's homicides.

"The murders the South specializes in are not the crime-in-the-streets kind that respond to zero-tolerance policing," added John Shelton Reed Jr., a sociologist at the University of North Carolina. "The South has had far more than its share of domestic arguments, fights between neighbors and friends."

Florida takes prize for abusive, violent drivers

Hot temperatures lead to hot tempers

South Florida appears to be at the epicenter of a growing trend in abusive, violent behavior amongst the nation's motorists, according to a study by the American Automobile Association for Traffic Safety.

In a representative sample of 150 cases of drivers acting out violently, 29, or nearly 20 percent, occurred in Florida. Of those, nearly half happened in Miami, said Stephanie Faul, a spokeswoman for the organization.

The figures do not even include two separate incidents in Dade and Broward counties recently in which one man was wounded and another shot dead in violent clashes over routine traffic problems.

Sixto Gomez, a West Kendall father of three, was killed on April 14 when his car stalled. Gomez and some friends pushed the vehicle into a shopping center parking lot, momentarily blocking the exit. Another driver, 24-year-old Rene Alex Bodden, complained and a heated argument ensued. Bodden pulled out a gun and fatally shot Gomez.

One day earlier, Christopher Danthrosio, 39, was wounded while driving on Interstate 95 in Broward County after the driver of another vehicle fired a shot into his car window during an argument. Danthrosio was hospitalized with a bullet wound to the neck.

According to the study, there has

been a 51-percent increase in the amount of road violence from 1990 to 1995. The five-year study found that of 10,037 violent clashes on America's highways, angry motorists caused 218 deaths and 12,610 injuries.

The research, culled from police reports and newspaper articles, is not comprehensive. Not all states keep such figures, especially when allegations lead only to property damage.

As for why Miami seems to be engender the most highway clashes, Faul cited a British study that found violent confrontations increase in hot climates.

"Perhaps that's true in Miami," she told The Miami Herald.

There is no one typical pattern for the aggressive driver, although researchers found that majority are males between the ages of 18 and 26, poorly educated, with criminal records, histories of violence, and drug or alcohol problems. Many have recently suffered emotional or professional setbacks, said the report. Only about 4 percent of aggressive driving incidents involve women, but when they do attack, about 70 percent of women use their cars as weapons.

Motorists can protect themselves, the report said, by using the horn sparingly, walking away from confrontations, not blocking the passing lane, and never underestimating a fellow driver's capacity for mayhem.

Crime stats put Omaha mayoral election in a number crunch

A handful of cities did not submit crime statistics for the FBI's preliminary report of 1996 crime figures, including Omaha, Neb., where a dispute over the accuracy of the figures became a major issue in the mayoral election last month.

Mayor Hal Daish won another term in a squeaker of a race, defeating City Councilwoman Brenda Council by just 500 votes. Council had made crime statistics an issue in the campaign, charging that some of the figures, particularly those pertaining to sexual assaults, appeared to be skewed.

The controversy came to a head just before the election when Daish needed crime statistics for a press conference, and ordered John Packet, his special assistant for public safety, to gather the figures.

"Apparently, Packet ordered [police] to release some figures, which were done manually, and some of which had been double-counted," said Allen Curtis, director of the Nebraska Crime Commission, which submits the state's crime figures to the FBI.

The Police Department's deputy chiefs publicly repudiated Packet's actions, and the mayoral aide has also been challenged over his handling of budget estimates for a new police he-

licopter unit. Packet denied allegations of impropriety, but reportedly failed a lie detector test, prompting Daish to call for his resignation on May 5, just days before the election.

"It was clearly a factor in the election," said Samuel Widker, a professor of criminal justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, who added that the situation was indicative of "a more general management problem."

But Curtis traces the problems to a few years ago, when the Police Department tried unsuccessfully to convert to the National Incident-Based Reporting System that the FBI hopes to have in place in the next few years.

"In the meantime, they threw away their old Uniform Crime Reporting system, and since that time there's been I don't know how many problems with their statistics," Curtis told Law Enforcement News. "One year they go up, the next year they go down. There's been a year or two where they didn't report to the FBI."

Since Omaha is the state's largest city, the state's crime totals are significantly affected when Omaha's statistics can't be factored in, Curtis noted. "With Lincoln, they overwhelm the statistics," he said. "The two of them account for about half of the statewide totals."

Curtis said the Omaha Police Department, whose officials did not return

calls from LEN for comment, is reviewing the 1996 statistics and trying to correct any problems with data collection and tabulation.

"We're just simply waiting until they confirm whether the figures are any good," Curtis said, adding that the crime commission hopes to submit 1996 crime figures in time for the FBI's final report due out later this year. "What I hope is that we actually have some accurate statistics so that when 1997's come out, we'll be back on track and people can have some faith in what we're reporting to them."

Still, Curtis said, Omaha's problems prompt critical questions about the NIBRS conversion effort. "The truth of the matter is that Omaha bit off something it couldn't chew when it tried to go to NIBRS. It's a very difficult thing to work on, particularly in the larger communities. It requires large departments, in some cases, to throw away what are essentially good systems that are working for them. Plus, it's a huge cost to gain virtually nothing."

Curtis said that according to his information, no large cities are reporting crime statistics via NIBRS. "Which says volumes. I'm wondering if it's train-wrecked, and if it is, it's holding a lot of actions captive."

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Dodging obligations suits criminals fine

In D.C. area alone, nearly a half-billion dollars in restitution & fines is going unpaid

Criminal justice officials in the Washington, D.C., area say getting criminals to pay fines, fees and restitution orders imposed on them as part of their sentences is about as easy as pulling teeth, and it's costing victims and local governments a lot more than a lifetime of trips to the dentist.

Authorities say that at least \$488 million in unpaid fines related to criminal cases is gathering dust on government ledgers, and many crime victims don't see a penny from criminals ordered to pay damages. The Washington Post reported recently.

Just estimating how much criminals owe is a feat in itself because the army of employees who track the fees and payments — state and Federal court clerks, prosecutors and probation departments — use different collection methods and incompatible computer systems.

The cost to local governments and crime victims is staggering. In Fairfax County, Va., alone, criminals owe state and local governments \$41.2 million in fines and fees, much of it dating to the 1980s, officials told The Post. "Every time we don't collect a debt, that means we have to collect [tax money] from the people who are responsible," said U.S. Attorney Lynne A. Battaglia of Maryland, whose office pursues Federal court debtors. "The bad guys not paying makes us all pay more."

The deadbeats range from reckless drivers who don't show up for trial to extortionists, check kiers and shady businessmen who bilked investors. In fact, victims of financial crimes, individuals and companies, are owed about \$65 million of the \$488 million currently outstanding.

Officials acknowledge the difficulty of getting criminals, many of them penniless, to pay up, and many offenders thumb their noses at attempts to do so. While they can be incarcerated for failure to pay fines, there are few options beyond jail to force criminals to meet court-imposed obligations, said Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk John T. Frey. "Your options are another fine — and they've already thumbed their nose at that — or putting them in a crowded jail.... There really aren't effective tools."

Some officials say privatizing the system could help collection efforts. Virginia and Maryland officials have begun to turn over overdue criminal debts to government as well as private collection agencies, which can garnish state wages, tax refunds and lottery prizes. Federal prosecutors are stepping up their efforts as well, filing liens and going after wages.

Despite improvements, recovered fines and fees are only trickling into government coffers. Since 1994, Maryland's

central collection unit had brought in about 3.7 percent of the \$17.8 million in restitution owed to crime victims. Alexandria has one of the state's more enviable collection records, with about 22 percent of overdue fines and fees referred this year. But that still leaves about \$7.7 million in unpaid fines and fees to track down.

"We have not done a very professional job about this," said David Beatty, director of the National Victim Center, a nonprofit advocacy group. "A lot of the time, the debt gets mentioned in court [at sentencing], and that's the last time you ever hear about it.... And that's well known in the criminal world."

Some collection efforts are stymied because criminals work

"We have not done a very professional job about this. A lot of the time, the debt gets mentioned in court [at sentencing], and that's the last time you ever hear about it.... And that's well known in the criminal world."

— David Beatty,
director of the National Victim Center

"off the books" jobs and don't pay taxes, so they show up in records as unemployed. Or, in cases where the deadbeat is known to be holding a job, "we'll garnish somebody's wages, and he'll quit," said Jack Hand, collection director for the State of Maryland. "Out of state, the best you can do is put it on their credit record," he added.

In Washington, the Federal courts are owed the most money because many of the cases heard there involve financial crimes in which suspects have stolen, extorted or bilked victims of large sums. Nearly \$400 million was owed by criminals at the end of the 1996 fiscal year — seven times the 1991 total. The nation's total Federal court debt now hovers at about \$6 billion.

Federal prosecutors estimate that about 86 percent of the local debt is uncollectable, including a \$255-million judgment against

defendants in the international bank fraud and money-laundering case involving the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, many of whom are serving prison terms and have no U.S. assets.

Both state and Federal court officials say they don't have the staff needed for effective debt collection, so they must prioritize which debtors they pursue. The Eastern District of Virginia had five collection agents who between them are responsible for an average of 760 cases a year. Caseloads are expected to rise, especially in view of a 1996 law that says Federal judges at sentencing can no longer reduce the amount criminals have to repay their victims, even if it's known that the defendant is indigent.

"We're going to be carrying larger and larger sums of money to collect, and a certain amount of effort has to be spent on each one," said Helen F. Fahey, U.S. Attorney for the district.

The staffing situation is similar at the state level, according to Nancy Lake, clerk of the Fairfax General District Court. "We're hurried.... We have people being garnished, and we already have the payments," she told The Post. "This is the most frustrating thing I've ever done. They don't give me enough people."

Even knowing the whereabouts of the deadbeats doesn't necessarily make it easier to collect fines from them, and those in jail usually aren't too concerned with their debts to society. In some high-profile felony cases, judges impose "newspaper headline fines" that indigent criminals can't pay. The fines and payment usually aren't due until the convict gets out of prison and is more difficult to locate.

Maryland parole and probation officers, who collect from state felons they supervise, don't even try to track the total number of outstanding fines and fees. "It's an immense number, and an awful lot of offenders are not going to pay, and an awful lot are going to be reincarcerated," said Leonard A. Sipes Jr., spokesman for Maryland Public Safety and Correctional Services.

The state fares better in efforts to collect smaller fines, like those meted out by district court judges for traffic violations and misdemeanors. Debtors are matched with computerized records maintained by the Motor Vehicle Administration, and when they don't pay, they can't renew their licenses or vehicle registrations. That's one of the reasons the court collect 97 percent of its \$71.3 million in fees. The D.C. District Court, which also handles many low-level criminals, achieved a similar success rate, collecting 92 percent of its fines last year.

The unlearning curve:

Program eyed for reversing violent behavior

With violence now the leading cause of death for Americans aged 15 to 24, a study of the effectiveness of a popular program being used in U.S. and Canadian schools is offering new hope that children can unlearn violent behavior in under six months.

The study, whose findings were reported in the May 28 edition of the Jour-

nal of the American Medical Association, involved 790 second- and third-graders at 12 schools in Washington state, half of whom were taught the Second Step violence-prevention curriculum over a period of 16 to 20 weeks. Researchers monitored their behavior at school and compared them with students who had not taken the course.

Three evaluations were conducted — one before the program began, another two weeks after it ended, and the final one about six months later. During the final evaluation, students who had taken the course exhibited about 30 fewer acts of violent behavior than students who did not take the course. They also exhibited more than 800 neutral or

positive acts per class every day than children in the control group.

Aggressive behaviors like hitting, kicking and shoving actually increased among students who did not take the course, according to the researchers, who were led by Dr. David C. Grossman, a pediatrician and co-director of the Harborview Injury Prevention and

Research Center. Grossman called the results encouraging, but cautioned that it was "premature to say that we've reached the solution." He said programs like Second Step need to be monitored for longer periods to see whether they reduce violent behavior in other settings later in life.

Dr. Mark L. Rosenberg of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, an arm of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which commissioned the study, was more effusive in his assessment. "Safer homes, safer schools and safer communities are possible," he said of the findings.

Second Step involves 35-minute weekly or twice-weekly sessions designed to teach empathy, problem-solving and anger management to children from preschool through ninth grade.

Youngsters might be shown a photograph of a frowning child and be asked to describe how the child is feeling. Another lesson might involve a picture of two boys fighting over a ball, then students are asked to identify the problem and come up with solutions.

The program is used in more than 10,000 U.S. and Canadian schools, according to Joan Duffell of the Committee for Children, a nonprofit organization based in Seattle that developed the program in 1986.

Dallas gang unit targets little problems before they escalate into serious crime

Dallas police are learning that arresting and ticketing gang members for petty crimes goes a long way toward nipping gang-related activity in the bud before it escalates into serious felonies like aggravated assault and murder.

Lieut. Victor Woodbury, commander of the Dallas Police Department's 39-member gang unit, says cops will be keeping an eye on favorite summertime youth haunts like swimming pools, parks and recreational centers this summer to ensure "a safe environment" for all residents.

The strategy is an outgrowth of an effort this spring that involved stepped-up patrols and surveillance at schools, particularly when students are entering

or leaving the facilities for the day. The effort was an attempt to prevent after-school scuffles from becoming all-out gang wars, which traditionally have flared up at the beginning and end of the school year, sometimes with deadly results.

Two shootings that wounded three teen-agers and a 32-year-old man occurred early in the 1996-97 academic year, Woodbury told Law Enforcement News. But the gang unit's efforts appear to have prevented the violence that sometimes mars the close of the school year, which ended last month. In some cases, patrols around schools were doubled, while other officers were assigned to patrol neighborhoods sur-

rounding schools for up to 10 hours.

Gang unit officers specially trained to spot signs of gang activity — hand signals, handkerchiefs and other tell-tale articles of clothing — will stop and engage youths in conversation, which sometimes leads to valuable tips on unsolved cases involving gang suspects. Sometimes, they'll pick up suspects for misdemeanor or traffic violations, Woodbury added.

"A lot of times, you're not going to catch people committing felonies," said Woodbury, a 17-year DPD veteran. "So we started looking at misdemeanors. If we work a known gang area, we just start stopping them for misdemeanors. What we've found is that if you pay

attention to the smaller things, then you can perhaps prevent the bigger things from happening."

Now that school's out with no major violent incidents reported, the unit's focus will shift to areas where young people congregate during summer months. "We don't want to alarm people or be accused of picking on youths. We're just out there to make sure there's a safe environment," Woodbury said.

Dallas has about 80 criminal street gangs known to police, and about 8,000 gang members. "That's just the ones we know," said Woodbury, who added that the gang unit has tripled in personnel since it was started in 1989 to deal with the emerging problem

Hutchinson:

How the FBI is working to put the finger on crime (faster & better than ever)

By Selena P. Hutchinson

Since its inception, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has earned a reputation of "always getting its man" through hard work and perseverance. As we approach the 21st century, the FBI and law enforcement agencies the world over will be getting additional help with their crime-fighting efforts. Advances in computerized fingerprint technology will revolutionize the process of identification, and the FBI is leading the way with the development of a multimillion-dollar computer system, the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System, (IAFIS).

IAFIS will modernize the FBI's fingerprint identification system and improve the services the bureau provides to the nation's criminal justice agencies and related private-sector services. IAFIS will enable the FBI to provide a rapid response to the growing number of identification requests using fingerprint cards. It will support a law enforcement agency's ability to digitally record individuals' fingerprints and other related information and electronically transmit and receive data with the FBI. It will scan hard-copy fingerprint cards electronically, store fingerprint data digitally, automatically search the data base to identify likely candidates, and dramatically reduce the number of manual steps, thus speeding up the process significantly. IAFIS will routinely respond to fingerprint identification requests in 24 hours, and two hours when the need is urgent.

The IAFIS program was initiated in 1990, and consists of three major components:

¶ The Identification Tasking and Networking (ITN) segment accepts fingerprint submissions and related transactions electronically and pro-

(Selena P. Hutchinson is unit chief of the program management unit in the FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System Program Office. A U.S. Air Force veteran with a master's degree in computer science, she spent eight years as a systems development specialist for the Pentagon.)

cesses them end-to-end. ITN will link users through communications networks, process 10-print fingerprint card submissions from contributors, process latent fingerprints, process documents such as arrest record and disposition information, and store fingerprint images.

¶ The Interstate Identification Index (III) segment is a repository of automated criminal history records, which will be accessed electronically when searching for arrest-record information.

¶ The Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) will maintain the FBI's national data base of fingerprint features from approximately 43 million known criminal subjects. AFIS will process up to 60,000 10-print searches and 635 latent fingerprint searches daily.

Step by Step

The IAFIS system is being delivered or deployed incrementally, one piece at a time, instead of all at once. The first two of the six increments, or builds, were delivered in 1996. Builds A and B provide latent fingerprint capabilities which are currently being used by the Latent Fingerprint Section at FBI headquarters. Build A was a data base repository containing extracted feature vectors (numerical descriptions of the fingerprint features) converted from the fingerprint images of 200,000 10-print cards. The data base is searched for possible matches to latent fingerprints recovered from crime scenes. The Build B data base expands on Build A, and is being loaded with more than 500,000 records.

Build C, scheduled for completion in November 1997, will require the ITN communications interfaces to connect the AFIS segments. Build C will demonstrate that IAFIS has the capability to electronically receive 10-print search requests, and to provide information concerning the existence of a matching record. When Build C is delivered, 25 percent of IAFIS functionality will be completed.

The other builds (see chart) are in various stages of design. In order to provide automated

benefits to law enforcement agencies as rapidly as possible, in 1997 the FBI will be offering the new and improved stand-alone Image Storage and Retrieval Element (ISRE). This element will provide the capability for the Ten-Print Compare Service Provider to access the Fingerprint Image Master File through a computer, retrieve sets of fingerprints electronically for on-screen comparison, and thereby allow the FBI to begin reducing the backlog of fingerprint cards for processing. Gone will be the old manual process of pulling and filing fingerprint cards. The FBI's Criminal Master Fingerprint Card file is currently being scanned and digitized to populate the ISRE electronic fingerprint file. By the end of 1997, the ISRE will contain the electronic fingerprint im-

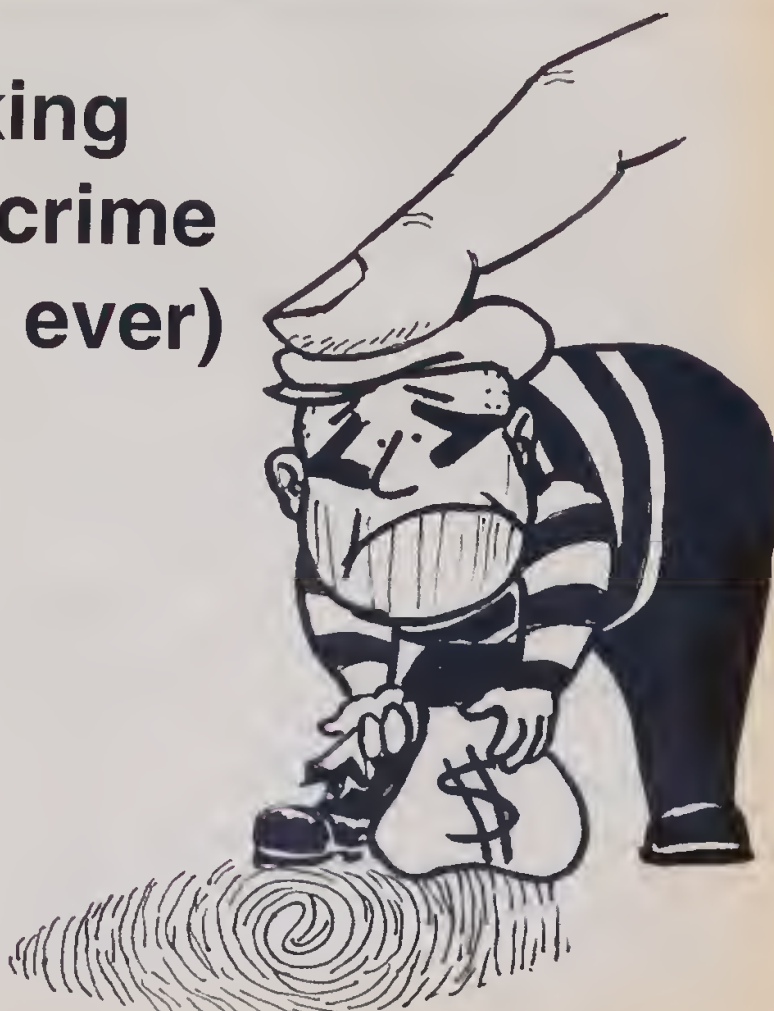
ages from more than 32 million criminal subjects.

The Interim Distributed Imaging System (IDIS) is an stopgap solution to help ease the burden of the FBI's fingerprint card backlog by receiving fingerprint submissions electronically. Electronic transmissions are necessary to take full advantage of IAFIS capabilities and achieve the desired turnaround time. The IDIS will offer a fingerprint card scanning and store-and-forward capability that will be provided to selected state identification bureaus. This capability will be deployed in conjunction with the Criminal Justice Information Services Division's Wide Area Network (WAN) and will enable the states to scan inked-fingerprint cards at their location, format them in accordance with national and FBI standards, and transmit them electronically to the FBI for processing prior to the full implementation of IAFIS.

The interim imaging system is expected to be delivered to selected states in 1997 and will provide participating states with a faster turnaround on their submissions, while helping to reduce the workload at the FBI. The FBI recently accelerated nationwide installation of the CJIS WAN to accommodate electronic fingerprint image transmission through IDIS. These initiatives will help the states develop the interfaces in their own systems that will allow them to communicate with IAFIS when it is completed.

IAFIS will help to assure public safety and protect the constitutional rights of persons subjected to criminal record checks — whether arrestees or applicants for jobs, licenses or secu-

Continued on Page 11



Status and Summary of IAFIS 'Builds'

Build	Expected On-Line	Building Blocks
A	8/96	Latent case-solving capability; 200,000 10-print cards; single crime category.
B	12/96	500,000 total 10-print cards; 24 crime categories; multiple latent files.
C	11/97	Integrate AFIS/ITN; number of prints greater than 8 million (all females+); limited 10-print search capability; stand-alone fingerprint image repository.
D	2/98	On-screen image comparison to enhance 10-print matching.
E	10/98	Integrates Interstate Identification Index subject search capability and CJIS WAN with IAFIS; provides interim NICS integration with IDIS.
F	7/99	Adds document processing and full latent capability; accepts latent inputs to Unsolved Latent File; Interstate Identification Index ad hoc subject searches; complete IAFIS functionality with 24-hour civil, 2-hour criminal response.

Note to Readers:

The opinions expressed on the Forum page are those of the contributing writer or cartoonist, or of the original source newspaper, and do not represent an official position of Law Enforcement News.

Readers are invited to voice their opinions on topical issues, in the form of letters or full-length commentaries. Please send all materials to the editor.

Military aid to Border Patrol challenged

Immigrant advocacy groups are once again questioning the wisdom of using the military to back up Border Patrol agents at the U.S.-Mexico border, with some demanding that the effort be scaled back or eliminated following the fatal shooting last month of a teen-ager by a patrolling Marine.

Suzan Kern, coordinator of the Border Rights Coalition in El Paso, Texas, said the initiative was a "poorly conceived public policy" that increases the likelihood of deadly encounters with civilians like Ezequiel Hernandez Jr., an 18-year-old U.S. citizen who was gunned down near Redford, Texas, about 200 miles southeast of El Paso. Hernandez was shot May 20 by a member of a four-man Marine unit stationed a mile south of Redford for a four-day surveillance operation near a suspected drug-smuggling route.

"They're not local, they're not trained as Border Patrol agents, and they probably don't know the field well," she told *The Associated Press*. "You're asking for more and more bloodshed."

The incident was believed to be the first time a U.S. soldier had fired on a U.S. citizen since military forces were deployed in anti-drug efforts along the border in the 1980s. About 700 military personnel aid Border Patrol agents in drug-fighting efforts along the border, said Border Patrol Chief Doug Kruhm. Military intelligence gatherers have turned over valuable information to border officials about spying operations run by highly sophisticated drug gangs, he said.

But at a press conference held at the Border Patrol's sector headquarters in Marfa, Texas, to discuss the shooting, Kruhm said military units in the Big Bend area south of Marfa were being temporarily pulled back, as authorities from the Presidio County Sheriff's Department, the Texas Rangers, the FBI, the Border Patrol and the military massed in the area to investigate.

Hernandez, who was tending a herd of 30 goats at the time he was shot, allegedly was shooting in the direction of the Marines when one of them returned fire, hitting him in the torso. The boy's relatives said he often took his gun with him to hunt or target practice,

and that's what they contend he was doing when he was shot.

Military officials, however, maintained that the shooter, whom they did not immediately identify, acted within guidelines.

"This was in strict compliance with the Joint Chiefs of Staff standing rules of engagement," said Col. Thomas R. Kelly, deputy commander of the El Paso-based Joint Task Force 6, which coordinates military assistance to law enforcement agencies battling drug traffickers. "You don't shoot to kill, you shoot to defend, and that's what they were doing — shooting to defend themselves."

Kelly said the Marine who shot Hernandez believed a fellow Marine was being targeted by the goatherd. "If you reach a point in which you fear for your life, you usually fire to kill," Kelly said.

Kruhm apologized to Hernandez's family, saying the Border Patrol's mission does not include waging violence against area residents. "The Border Patrol is a member of the communities and families that live along the border," he said. "Our mission is to improve the quality of life along the border — to stop criminal activities, alien smuggling, the abuse of aliens and the insidious drug smuggling into this country."

Hernandez did not fit into any of those categories of border threats, Kruhm conceded. "We don't understand his intentions. That's what makes this a tragedy. We do not have any information that this individual was involved in criminal activity."

The shooting was just the latest in a series of increasingly violent confrontations between military personnel deployed along the border to back up Border Patrol agents, whose numbers have been increased by the Federal Government in recent years to gain control of the porous, 2,000-mile boundary. In January, a Mexican man was shot and wounded after wandering near the border and trading shots with a Green Beret stationed at a border lookout post.

"These types of mishaps where people are getting shot who don't have anything to do with drug trafficking are

great evidence for pulling ground troops away from the border," said Timothy Ounn, an El Paso resident and author of the "The Militarization of U.S.-Mexico Border."

Lisa Navarrete, spokeswoman for the National Council of La Raza, agreed, saying: "It has been a creeping militarization of the border without much strategy or accountability or public debate. Having a military presence on a peaceful border is not the image we want to have."

Two days after the shooting, an advisory committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released a report recommending that Congress set up a watchdog group to investigate allegations of brutality and abuse by Border

Patrol agents. The Border Patrol is one of the nation's largest police forces, but as the report noted, unlike their colleagues at most local police departments, Border Patrol agents operate without the same accountability, inviting abuses like brutality and corruption.

Four of the commission's state advisory committees — those in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas — approved the recommendation after hearings in 1992 and 1993. The hearings indicated a pattern of abuse among Border Patrol agents, including allegations of civil rights violations based on race, ethnicity, nationality and language.

"Some communities expressed fear and distrust of the Border Patrol and

alleged harassment, racism and selective enforcement of immigration laws," the report said.

Doris Meissner, commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which oversees the Border Patrol, said the civil rights report didn't recognize changes INS has already made. They include a retooled complaint process and the establishment of a Citizens Advisory Panel that is preparing oversight recommendations, she said.

"The time lag has precluded description of the very aggressive, extensive and successful efforts made to prevent human and civil rights abuses," Meissner wrote in a response to the report.



Points of light

Attorney General Janet Reno (r.) and Sharon Felton, national president of the group Concerns of Police Survivors, light candles at the 9th annual candlelight vigil, held May 12 at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.

(Photo: Sonny Odom)

NYPD calls truce with gay officers' group

The New York Police Department recently settled a lawsuit filed by a group representing gay and lesbian police officers, and while the department admits no wrongdoing, the organization is still claiming victory.

The department agreed only to consider suggestions and requests from the group and to cover \$15,000 in legal costs to the group stemming from the two-year-old lawsuit.

Members of the Gay Officers Action League say the settlement means the agency no longer will be able to ignore its existence, as they claim it has throughout the organization's 15-year history.

"It's a major win," a GOAL member, Officer Francis DeBenedictis, told *The New York Daily News*. "We would have never had a display and a ceremony. We had to fight for it. They weren't going to openly give it to us."

The lawsuit charged that the NYPD

refused to allow GOAL to put up an exhibit honoring gay and lesbian officers in the lobby of One Police Plaza, the department's headquarters, and failed to assign gay and lesbian officers to its community affairs unit. It also ignored repeated requests by the group for a recruitment van to accompany GOAL members as they marched in the city's annual Gay Pride parade.

GOAL officials noted that that the department has agreed to a number of requests the group has made since the lawsuit was filed, including permitting the group to hold a ceremony and display this month at headquarters, and assigning a van to the GOAL contingent at the parade, to be held this year on June 29.

The NYPO also has agreed to appoint eight additional gay or lesbian officers to its Equal Employment Opportunity Office, which handles bias complaints filed by officers.



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The dicey issue of sex-offender notifications

Continued from Page 1

The Fulton County, Ga., Sheriff's Department is in the midst of conducting a survey of 3,000 registered voters to determine how they want the agency to notify them about released sex offenders. Maj. Michael Cooke, commander of the agency's service and patrol divisions, told Law Enforcement News that the agency currently maintains a portfolio of offenders that residents can view at its headquarters. The agency runs weekly newspaper ads indicating that the records are open for public inspection.

Last month, the North Carolina Senate approved a bill similar to Georgia's. It would expand the state's two-year-old sex offender registration law to include a statewide registry open to the public, and force convicted offenders leaving prisons to register with sheriffs in their county of residence.

Also last month, the Connecticut Senate voted to add a retroactive edge to its Megan's Law, extending it to all convicted sex offenders. The existing law, enacted in January 1995, applies only to those convicted after that date.

Many state laws, including those in New York, New Jersey and Kansas, are being stymied by legal challenges. In

New Jersey, a Federal appeals court has ruled on behalf of offenders who were convicted before Megan's Law was passed. Plaintiffs argued that community notification amounted to being punished twice for the same crime, and thus is unconstitutional.

Livingston, Mont., Police Chief Steven McCann knows that argument well. When his agency notified schools, took out an ad and visited door-to-door with residents to inform them about the impending release of an 89-year-old child molester in December 1995, the offender charged that the notification procedure was unfair punishment.

"We distributed flyers in a three- to four-block area," McCann recalled recently in an interview with LEN. "We couldn't tell them where he lived, just that he lived in the general area. He was upset by that I guess, but nobody else was."

New Jersey's law, like those in other states, classifies offenders into three groups. The law's public-notification provision provides that the identities of those who represent the least threat to a community be known only to local law enforcement officials in the offender's jurisdiction of residence. Schools and child-care facilities would

be informed of the next-most dangerous, while police would make formal notifications when the most dangerous offenders moved into the community.

But the notification provision has been frozen for most of the New Jersey law's short life, with the public being made aware of only about a quarter of more than 500 offenders classified in the two most dangerous categories. The registration provision is still being enforced, however. Last month, Bergen County authorities issued arrest warrants for nearly a dozen convicted sex offenders who had failed to register their addresses with police.

"There's still a patchwork quilt of state laws. It's going to take a while to iron out," noted Teresa Klingensmith, legal counsel for the Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Washington, D.C.

As a result, law enforcement officials often find themselves in the middle, trying to enforce the law and allay fears expressed by communities where offenders plan to reside, while at the same time trying to determine how to disclose the information without inducing panic and hysteria.

The intricacies of the various laws, which Klingensmith said were very "la-

bor-intensive" for law enforcement officials, requires a carefully thought-out procedure. "You can't just set up a program and walk away from it, particularly when you're talking about police departments in major metropolitan areas trying to track thousands of offenders," she told LEN.

"I think it's very necessary for departments to know and understand the culture of their community," said Lieut. Lisa McGinn, commander of the sex crimes unit of the St. Paul, Minn., Police Department. "If they don't, and if they don't have a close working relationship with them, it will be more difficult."

McGinn planned for and presided over St. Paul's first-ever public-notification meeting, which was held on May 19 at a local high school. About 800 residents gathered to learn about the impending release of two offenders — one of whom has since been rearrested for a parole violation because he was seen talking to a girl.

At the meeting, McGinn and other officials, including Police Chief William Finney, told the audience about the law, offered crime-prevention tips and disclosed information about the offenders — their names, photographs, information about their offenses and the blocks where they planned to reside.

The first public-notification meeting in Minnesota had occurred in Eagan, a St. Paul suburb, on March 6. Police Chief Pat Geagan said about 1,500 concerned residents attended the one-hour session, which included presentations by local prosecutors, victim advocates, crime-prevention officers and sex offender counselors.

Police officials from Minneapolis and nearby Burnsville also assisted the effort, as did officials from the state Peace Officer Standards and Training board, including executive director John Laux, a former Minneapolis police chief.

POST, which strongly recommends holding public meetings to tell communities about the release of Level III offenders, has developed a model policy with guidelines and procedures on how to arrange and conduct them. The policy, which was developed by a task force of law enforcement and criminal justice officials, provides a detailed overview of the law, the three classifications of offenders and the kinds of responses each require from law enforcement.

While the meeting in Eagan received "positive" marks from residents who attended, Chief Geagan said the effort nearly unraveled into a circus when local news media revealed the identity of the 19-year-old offender a few days before the event. Officials had tried to keep the identity of Mandell Stamper, who was convicted of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl, secret until the meeting, but somehow it was leaked to the media, Geagan said.

"The media really hyped the coverage of the meeting," the Chief said, which prompted a surge of phone calls by angry and frightened residents asking for details about Stamper. "We got a hundred calls a day before we identified him. After his name was revealed, the calls dropped to virtually nothing. That tells me they were satisfied with the information we provided."

As for Stamper, he tested positive for drug use a few days after his release, and is now being held in Hennepin

County Jail, Geagan said.

Lieutenant McGinn said extra care was taken by St. Paul police to conceal the identities of the offenders discussed at the meeting. "It was the opinion of this department that releasing the names would only heighten the fear," she told LEN.

Hystera was largely avoided, said McGinn, who credited the "close working relationship" the department has with the community.

"I think that helps; it certainly heightens the trust level," she said. "While I still think people are fearful, it lessens the hysteria that surrounds this. It helps people understand that this is a plus because they now know who lives here. Before, they didn't, even though there have always been sex offenders living here. Now they have the opportunity to take this information and do some positive crime-prevention in their community."

More than 200 people who attended the meetings completed evaluations, which McGinn said were largely favorable. "Some expressed frustration knowing there are sex offenders in the community. Some said too much time was spent on explaining the law and its procedures. They wanted more question-and-answer period. But again, with a wide variety of individuals attending the meeting, all with different educational levels and backgrounds, you have to try to strike a balance," she said.

Wisconsin's version of Megan's Law, which took effect June 1, lets law enforcement determine how much information about offenders is disclosed to the public, as well as the method of notification, said Bill Clausious, a spokesman for the state Department of Corrections. Local authorities have indicated they will hold public meetings to notify their communities, and will set up committees that will decide to how much notification is required, he told LEN.

Some states, like California, have set up 900-number phone lines that provide information about sex offenders living in particular communities. Others, including Kansas and Florida, are posting information about offenders on the Internet, pending the adoption of public-notification statutes. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Web site includes color photos of more than 250 offenders, descriptions of their crimes and where they live.

"So far, this seems to be working rather well," said Tom Berlinger, director of the Florida Sheriffs Association and a former Pasco County sheriff's captain.

Berlinger noted that county sheriffs also are distributing flyers and taking out newspaper ads when offenders are released to their jurisdictions. Meanwhile, the Florida Legislature is considering a bill that would establish a toll-free number to provide notifications; allow police to notify the public of offenders who are deemed predatory without risk of liability; require all convicted sex offenders to provide FDLE with current addresses and photos, and require law enforcement agencies and the Department of Corrections to share information on sex-crime suspects.

For more on this subject, see the May 15, 1997, issue of Law Enforcement News.

Law Enforcement News

Affirmative-action programs looking a little black & blue

The jury is still out on community policing

Scouting the officer of the future

Time to rethink academy & field training

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(61597)

Upcoming Events

AUGUST

1-5. Underwater Search & Evidence Recovery. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$525

2-3. Expanded Tactical Folding Knife Instructor Program. Presented by CQC Service Group. Sacramento, Calif.

4-5. Supervisory Survival for Female Officers. Presented by Public Safety Training Inc. Ashburn, Va.

4-6. Field Training Program for Communications Officers. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$375.

4-6. Street Survival '97. Presented by Calibre Press. Anaheim, Calif. \$189

4-8. School Resource Officer Course. Presented by the Criminal Justice Institute. College of Lake County. Grayslake, Ill. \$325.

4-8. Accident Scene Mapping for Total Stations & Computer-Aided Drawing. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$675.

4-8. Hostage Negotiations & Crisis Management. Presented by the Public Safety Institute. Orlando, Fla. \$395.

4-8. Interviews & Interrogations. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$495

4-8. Forensic Animation of Traffic Crashes. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$795.

4-8. Investigation of Motorcycle Accidents. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$495.

4-8. Crime Scene Investigations II. Presented by the Metro-Dade Police Department. Miami Springs, Fla. \$525.

5-6. Expanded Tactical Folding Knife Instructor Program. Presented by CQC Service Group. Rochester, N.Y.

5-6. Drug Interdiction. Presented by Hutchinson Law Enforcement Training. LLC Concord, Mass. \$175

6. Sexual Harassment Prevention. Presented by Public Safety Training Inc. Ashburn, Va.

8-9. Expanded Tactical Folding Knife Instructor Program. Presented by CQC Service Group. Toronto, Ont.

10-17. Focusing on Terrorism. Presented by the Institute for Continuing Justice Education & Research. Templemore, Ireland. \$760.

11-12. Expanded Tactical Folding Knife Instructor Program. Presented by CQC Service Group. South Haven, Mich.

11-13. Developing & Managing an Incident Command System. Presented by the Public Safety Institute. Orlando, Fla. \$375.

11-15. Basic Training for Child Abuse Prosecutors & Investigators. Presented by the American Prosecutors Research Institute. Tucson, Ariz. \$445.

11-15. Undercover Drug Enforcement Techniques. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$525.

11-15. Drug Unit Commander Seminar. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$495

11-15. Police Traffic Radar Instructor Course. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$495.

11-15. Pedestrian/Bicycle Accident Investigation. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$495.

11-15. Practical Hostage Negotiations. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$495.

12-14. Street Survival '97. Presented by Calibre Press. New Orleans. \$189.

13-14. Narcotic & Drug Investigations. Presented by Hutchinson Law Enforcement Training, LLC. Westfield, Mass. \$175

13-15. Plainclothes & Undercover Survival. Presented by the Public Safety Institute. Orlando, Fla. \$325.

14-15. Expanded Tactical Folding Knife Instructor Program. Presented by CQC Service Group. Toledo, Ohio.

14-15. Interview & Interrogation Techniques. Presented by Wicklander-Zulawski & Associates. Houston. \$349

17-18. Expanded Tactical Folding Knife Instructor Program. Presented by CQC Service Group. Greensboro, Pa.

17-22. 23rd Annual North American Victim Assistance Conference. Presented by the National Organization for Victim Assistance. Houston. \$225/\$275

18-20. Police Traffic Laser Instructor. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$325

18-20. Robbery Investigation. Presented by the Public Safety Institute. Orlando, Fla. \$315

18-22. 8th Annual Crimes Against Chil-

dren Seminar. Presented by the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center & the Dallas Police Department. Dallas

18-22. Career Criminal Investigations. Presented by the Metro-Dade Police Department. Miami Beach, Fla. \$495.

18-22. Homicide Investigation. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Franklin, Tenn. \$495

18-22. Developing Law Enforcement Managers. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$495

18-22. Computerized Collision Diagramming. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$695.

18-22. Inspection & Investigation of Commercial Vehicle Accidents. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$495

18-22. Narcotic Identification & Investigation. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$495

18-22. Applied Physics for Traffic Acci-

dent Investigators. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$495

19-21. Street Survival '97. Presented by Calibre Press. St. Louis. \$189

20-21. Expanded Tactical Folding Knife Instructor Program. Presented by CQC Service Group. Pottstown, Pa.

21-22. Interview & Interrogation Techniques. Presented by Wicklander-Zulawski & Associates. Cleveland, Ohio. \$349

25-27. Investigating Cans, Seams & Hoaxes. Presented by the Public Safety Institute. Orlando, Fla. \$315

25-29. Managing Criminal Investigators & Investigations. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$495

25-29. DWI Instructor Course. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$495.

25-29. Advanced Traffic Accident Reconstruction with the Use of Microcomputers. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$795

Some day (very soon) your prints will come (faster)

Continued from Page 8

In the late 1980s, law enforcement clearly needed a leader to move identification services into the foreground. The FBI also realized the need for a more cohesive system to link local, state and Federal law enforcement agencies in an effort to conduct cross-jurisdictional searches of each other's data. At the same time, FBI personnel began to examine their own operations to identify those areas that needed to be upgraded and automated. All of this early conceptualization planted the seeds for revitalizing identification services within the FBI.

Identifying a Need

Newly enacted legislation also influenced the FBI's long-range planning efforts. Pursuant to the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, for example, the Attorney General directed the FBI to ensure that the data in its automated systems were complete, accurate and immediately available in order to identify felons who attempted to purchase firearms. Also, the Airports Security Act, various banking laws and, more recently, the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1994, require screening of applicants for criminal histories. All of this legislation has a considerable impact on the FBI's already overburdened semiautomated system.

In June 1989, the FBI took steps to improve essential identification services for its users by enlisting the assistance of the National Crime Information Center's Advisory Policy Board to review the Identification Division's strategies and plans for automation and to make recommendations. The policy board's Identification Services Subcommittee, together with the FBI's Identification Division (now the Criminal Justice Information Services Division), produced a comprehensive plan to overhaul and rejuvenate the bureau's fingerprint-related services.

Essentially, the plan reflected a partnership between Federal, state and local law enforcement to ensure that the Criminal Justice Information Services Division will be in a position to meet the increasing needs of its users well into the 21st century.

When the FBI first embarked on the IAFIS development effort, overall fingerprint technology had improved considerably over the years with respect to numerous law enforcement applications. However, the AFIS technology has been dominated by a limited number of vendors whose proprietary hardware and software locked criminal justice agencies into a single product line, limiting the agencies' flexibility to switch vendors and making system upgrades and expansion very expensive.

A More Open Environment

The established vendors in this market were happy with their share of the business and were not motivated to push technology by investing in research and development. The FBI forced a change in this attitude when it took the initiative, during the early stages of IAFIS development, by working with other law enforcement agencies and discussing the benefits to be derived from cross-jurisdictional data base searches. This ultimately led to the IAFIS requirement for open-system computer technology and the use of national standards, eventually developed by the FBI in partnership with the National Institute of Standards and Tech-

nology

The use of telecommunications and image transmission standards is the foundation upon which the FBI has been able to build partnerships with other law enforcement agencies, developing infrastructure and building bridges across organizations. This has ensured the FBI's interoperability within the law enforcement community. Just imagine the chaos and cost associated with every agency using different image compression and transmission

Imagine the chaos and cost associated with every agency using different image standards, and then trying to electronically transmit and use those same fingerprint images. It just would not work.

standards, and then trying to electronically transmit, decompress and use those same fingerprint images. It just would not work. In addition to the standards making it all possible, they also make the technology cheaper and thus available to a wider spectrum of law enforcement organizations.

A More Open Environment

Other Federal information technology systems have also migrated toward open-system environments, which consist of distributed, heterogeneous network systems, data bases and hardware. Homogeneity is no longer practical. Users need open systems that provide interoperability of products and portability of people, data and applications across a heterogeneous computing environment. The FBI's approach to the IAFIS development effort is in full compliance with this concept. An open systems environment encompasses the functionality needed to provide this required interoperability, portability and scalability of computerized applications, like IAFIS, across networks of heterogeneous hardware, software and communications platforms. IAFIS is being developed completely within this open-systems approach.

For further information:

Addresses & phone/fax numbers for organizations listed in calendar of events.

American Prosecutors Research Institute, 99 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 510, Alexandria, VA 22314. (703) 739-0321. Fax: (703) 836-3195

Calibre Press, 666 Dundee Rd., Suite 1607, Northbrook, IL 60062-2727. (800) 323-0037. Fax: (708) 498-6869. E-mail: Seminar@CalibrePress.com

CQC Service Group, Kingsbury Lane, Billerica, MA 01862. (617) 667-5591

Criminal Justice Institute, College of Lake County, 19351 W. Washington St., Grayslake, IL 60030-1198. (847) 223-6601, ext. 2937. Fax: (847) 548-3384

Dallas Children's Advocacy Center, Attn: Jessie Shelburne, 3611 Swiss Ave., Dallas, TX 75204. (212) 818-2600. Fax: (214) 823-4819

Davis & Associates, P.O. Box 6725, Laguna Niguel, CA 92607. (714) 495-8334

Executive Protection Institute, Arcadia Manor, Rte. 2, Box 3645, Berryville, VA 22611. (540) 955-1128

FitFurce, 1607 N. Market St., P.O. Box 5076, Champaign, IL 61825-5076. (217) 351-5076. Fax: (217) 351-2674

Hutchinson Law Enforcement Training, LLC, P.O. Box 822, Granby, CT 06035. (860) 653-0788. E-mail: dhutch@snet.net. Internet: <http://www.patnotweb.com/hlei>

Institute for Continuing Justice Education & Research, Pennsylvania State University,

1014 Oswald Tower, University Park, PA 16802. (814) 863-0079. Fax: (814) 863-7044.

Institute of Police Technology & Management, University of North Florida, 4567 St. Johns Bluff Rd. So., Jacksonville, FL 32216. (904) 646-2722.

Investigation Training Institute, P.O. Box 669, Shelburne, VT 05482. (802) 985-9123

Metro-Dade Police Department, Training Bureau, 9601 NW 58th St., Building 100, Miami, FL 33178-1619. (305) 715-5022.

National Organization for Victim Assistance, 1757 Park Rd., NW, Washington, DC 20010. (202) 232-6682. Fax: (202) 462-2255. E-mail: nova@access.digex.net.

Northwestern University Traffic Institute, 555 Clark St., P.O. Box 1409, Evanston, IL 60204. (800) 323-4011

Public Safety Institute, University of North Florida-IPM, P.O. Box 607130, Orlando, FL 32860-7130. (407) 647-6080. Fax: (407) 647-3828.

Public Safety Training Inc., P.O. Box 106, Oak Harbor, OH 43449. (419) 732-2520

Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute, P.O. Box 830707, Richardson, TX 75083-0707. (214) 883-2376. Fax: (214) 883-2458.

Wicklander-Zulawski & Associates Inc., 4932 Main St., Downers Grove, IL 60515-3611. (800) 222-7789. Fax: (630) 852-7081. E-mail: Register@W-Z.com.

Putting the finger on crime:

It's taking time to put together, but the FBI is moving steadily closer to full implementation of its Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System. Find out why the system will be worth the wait. **Forum, Page 8.**



Start spreading the news:

How jurisdictions are handling the dicey business of sex-offender notification. **Page 1.**

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What They Are Saying:

"If you. . .give the kids something to do, then you don't have to deal with them out there on the street. When I do deal with them on the streets, it's generally a friendly 'hello' and 'how are you,' rather than the typical stuff that kids get into."

— Huntingdon Borough, Pa., Cpl. William T. Rhodes, recently cited as the American Legion's first National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. (Story, Page 4.)